

REMARKS

It is brought to the Examiner's attention that claim 13 was cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment which was received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 12, 2004. Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 41 are in the case.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that the pending claims relate to two inventions, and grouped the claims as follows:

Group I. A method for decomposing a neutral organophosphorus compound of the formula (10) wherein J is O or S according to claims 1 to 37, classified in class 568, subclass 886+.

Group II. A kit for decomposing a neutral organophosphorus compounds according to claims 38 to 41, classified in class 206, subclass 541+.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 to 12, and 14 to 37. This election is made with traverse. Rejoinder of the claims of Groups I and II is respectfully requested.

The Examiner suggested that the claims of Groups I and II are separate and distinct, because there is no patentable co-action among the two groups and a reference anticipating one member will not render the other obvious. The claims of the two groups are related by a shared concept. Independent claims 1 and 38 each relate to *decomposing a neutral organophosphorus compound using an alcoholysis reaction in a substantially non-aqueous medium comprising non-radioactive metal ions selected from the group consisting of lanthanide series metal ions, transition metal ions, and combinations thereof, and at least a trace of alkoxide ions.* Moreover, applicants submit that searching of claims of Group II presents no additional burden relative to searching required for the claims of Group I.

Rejoinder of claims 1 to 12, and 13 to 41 is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this Amendment and Reply, he or she is

asked to please telephone the undersigned or Carol Miernicki Steeg (Reg. No. 39,539) at 613-533-2342.

Respectfully submitted,



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